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# VALLEY GAY PRESS

GLBT INFORMATION SINCE 1998

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 11 NO. 5 JUNE 2008

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

PA Diversity Network ~ Valley Gay Press

GLBT

## Community Awards Celebration

## JUNE 17 - EVENT BEGINS 6PM - AWARDS 7:30PM

### AT THE ALLENTOWN BREW WORKS

Pennsylvania Diversity Network and the Valley Gay Press announce the first annual PDN Community Awards Celebration honoring individuals who have served the GLBT community. The awards & recognitions will be presented Tuesday evening, June 17, at the Allentown Brew Works during a special evening party. Event opens at 6pm for hors d'oeuvres, conversation, silent auction, PDN Photo Project, raffle, and cash bar. Awards ceremony will begin at 7:30pm. Dessert and coffee served at 8:30pm. Tickets: $20 per person in advance and $25 at the door. Order advance tickets securely on-line at www.padiversity.org. Benefits PDN Programs. If you represent a business or organization please help to sponsor this important community event by making a financial donation of goods or services for the silent auction.

**ORDER ADVANCE TICKETS TODAY AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**

## ESTATE PLANNING DINNER SEMINAR

Presented by Amy Smart of Merrill Lynch, June 24, 6:30pm at the Stoned Crab restaurant in Macungie. Dinner & seminar $10 donation per person, $5 benefits PA Diversity Network & $5 benefits Pride GLV.

## PA SENATORS TABLE ANTI-GAY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

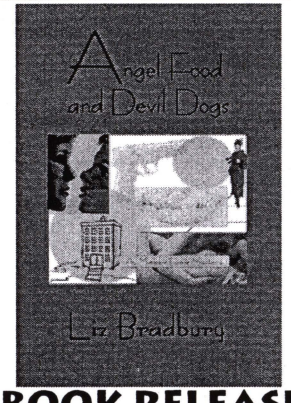
see page 5

## CALIFORNIA RULES FOR MARRIAGE

see pages 8 & 11.

## GLV PRIDE - QUEEN OF PRIDE FUNDRAISER

Queen of Pride Fundraiser at the Stonewall. Join Onya Pital, 2007 Queen of Pride, raise money for Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley on June 27, 10pm.




## BOOK RELEASE READINGS & SIGNINGS

at the Interweave dance, Woods Campground & Skyy Lounge to benefit PDN and other not-for-profits. Read about these events on page 11.

## THE LEHIGH VALLEY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

**SPRING CONCERT - MIGHTY MEN OF SONG!**

Saturday, June 7 at the Wesley Methodist Church in Bethlehem or Sunday, June 8 at the Grace Episcopal Church in Allentown, for the final concert of the 14th season. Artistic Director J. Clinton Miller will conduct a varied collection of music that includes American political anthems, German and French folk songs, spirituals, jazz renditions and pop songs. Ticket Prices: Standard price - $15.00, Students/Seniors - $12.00 Call (610) 366-3320 to order tickets.

## INTERWEAVE PRE-PRIDE COMMUNITY DANCE - JUNE 6

Interweave, the GLBTQA group at UUCLV invites the community to COME OUT to show off their Pride & shake their groove thang in a smoke-free space. All adults are welcome , Friday, June 6 7:30-10pm, Unitarian Universalist Church LV at 424 Center St. (corner of Wall St.) in Bethlehem. $5 ticket donation at the door. For more info or to volunteer, call 610-533-3071 or emailt allysondiane @hotmail.com.

## PFLAG

It's time again for food and fun at the annual Eastern PA PFLAG Potluck Picnic at the Kohn's home in Macungie. June 22, 1:00PM - 7:00PM. If you plan on attending please call Don or Melinda at 610-967-5219 to get directions and to let them know what you will be bringing. Hope to see you there!

Reading Pride

## READING PRIDE JULY 20

READ MORE ON PAGE 3

**BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.**

# What's That About?

*Readers write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.*

**Dear WTA:** Do you know if anyone has put a $ figure on the cost of an "average" (from a financial perspective) gay couple to simulate the federal and state marriage rights we're currently denied? I'm thinking of the a "typical" gay couple (two earners @ say, $40 or 50k each / year; with net assets of ??? 100k?) – What would the legal costs be to replicate what legally married couples get for free – and what rights still aren't covered after all that. A $ figure might help people get a more concrete perspective on what this means to average working couples.
**Chuck Versaggi**

**Dear Chuck,** Our tax person figured out that we pay about $800 per year in taxes more than if we were legally married but we make a lot less than 100k a year, so figure double that for a couple's income that is twice what ours is ($1600 a year).

A full wills, POAs, and living wills package from a lawyer for a couple, is about $900. Parenting agreements typically cost $2000 to $3000. A second parent adoption for a kid that one of them has by insemination or adoption, costs around $10,000 in PA (but nearly nothing in NJ because they have Civil Union).

So that comes to about $14,000 not counting income tax. Let's average income taxes to be at least $32,000 over 20 years. There are other costs, including certain kinds of deeds and the extra cost of car insurance for non-married people, and also the federal tax on domestic partner health benefits. Then of course there's the huge cost of inheritance tax upon the death of one partner for the survivor. With the kind of assets you mention, inheritance tax would be at least $7000. So their financial burden would be over $50,000 more than if they were legally married.

A big difference is health insurance. The financial impact of the lack of health insurance when a person cannot get domestic partner benefits could mean their entire savings could be depleted just because they cannot be married. But suppose they duplicated the health insurance they can't get, out of pocket. This would cost anywhere from $6000 a year on up (and that's not including the possible out of pocket cost for their kids). Over a 20 year period that would be another $120,000 minimum, with inflation it's reasonable to assume that will be more like $200,000. We're getting into the quarter of a million dollar mark in terms of the difference between legally married and not legally married. Remember this includes both federal and state recognition of legal marriage. Civil Union only gives state recognition, which would only save about half the money, if that.

This doesn't take into consideration all the hundreds of other rights (over 1100 Federal and nearly 600 State rights) that come from legal marriage. These include the right to assume a spouse's pension, losses due to divorce, social security losses, the cost of the inability for a same-sex couple to get immigration rights, the total lack of support for military personnel who have same-sex partners. Those financial inequalities are huge and really cannot be calculated.

## LES GROSS ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

MCCLV member Les Gross celebrates his decades with Metropolitan Community Churches in a special Anniversary Concert on Saturday, June 7 at 7:30 PM at the church. Les will be singing a wide variety of material, accompanied by a number of guest singers. Proceeds to go towards MCCLV's Building Fund.

# SCOTTY IN THE CITY

*By Scott Laubner*

## THE PLEASURE CHEST

There is a store in Greenwich Village called The Pleasure Chest. Sex and the City fans may know the place because this is where Charlotte bought her dildo, the Rabbit, in the second season. I like to shop there for off-color Christmas cards. A few months ago I was there and the place was deserted. I was looking at feather boas and penis pinatas when, in the space of thirty seconds, the place was mobbed with women. About 25 of them were looking at leather whips and touching the dildos. A woman walked to the center of the store and said "OK ladies, you have ten minutes and then we have to continue on." I asked the lady who she was. She was the tour guide for the Sex in the City bus tour and this was one of their regular stops. New Yorkers are so different in their attitudes towards sex, than the attitudes I remember growing up with in Allentown.

When I attended Trexler Middle School, all students had to take health class. When our teacher announced that the unit on first aid was complete and the next week we would begin a unit on sex education I remember half of my classmates snickering and the other half laughing lecherously. The following week proved to be something of a let down. Our teacher talked about ovaries and scrotum. It was all very clinical, I think our teacher was trying to be deliberatively vague on purpose. After listening to her lecture I got confused and asked the guy next me "wait, do we have fallopian tubes or is that what the girls have? I got lost somewhere." But even this ambiguous lesson was too much for one mother in the school district. She was outraged that boys and girls should be learning about this (more biology than sex really) in a co-ed classroom.

So the following year boys and girls were separated to study about "sex." The boys had to show up in our locker room and our gym teacher was going to teach us. Our gym teacher had his own style of teaching. I remember this quote to this day. "Boys, as you get older, you'll start getting hairier. The girls will start getting hairier too. You can't tell because American girls shave, but in other countries the girls go Zieg Heil (and here he did a Nazi salute with his right arm stretched upward) and there's a bush growing under there (pointing to his armpit.)"

At William Allen High School the swimming classes were segregated. That was because the girls wore swimming suits and the guys swam nude. One gym period would be for the guys and the next period would be all girls. According to school lore a girl got pregnant and her mother was convinced the reason her daughter got in the family way because there were naked boys swimming the gym period before her daughter swam in the pool. This all happened before my time. When I got to Allen High School the school policy had been changed and the guys were wearing suits in the pool. I guess if there is a lesson to be learned here it is don't underestimate the power of a couple of mothers' in denial.

One unrelated topic- I saw The Universe of Keith Haring at the Tribecca Film Festival. Everything you've ever wanted to know about this artist from Kutztown is in there. With archive footage of Mr. Haring painting in New York, Italy and Germany, plus interviews with Yoko Ono and the Haring Family. This really was a beautiful documentary. Catch it if it comes to the Lehigh Valley or check it out on Netflix.

**PDN SEEKS SPONSORS FOR THE AWARDS CELEBRATION TO SUPPORT THE EVENT AND TO DONATE ITEMS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION. SEE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.**

**CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**

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HOT NEWS

## HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page atwww.uuclvpa. org/haven.

## GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level. The spring/summer schedule is now in effect.

**Tennis:** Every Sunday at 5:00pm at the Muhlenberg College courts 22nd & Turner Sts, Allentown, **Volleyball:** Every Thursday at 7:00pm at Catasauqua Playground. **Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. Pinochle: the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown. **Racquetball:** every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: Info@gloss.org. Website: www.gloss.org.

## GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling meets on the second Friday of the month, Ira Fine, GLOSS Bowling coordinator, must contact the bowling alley to reserve the correct number of lanes. If you are interested, please contact Ira at: iramfine@aol.com, 610-767-7363, 610-462-4786. Bowlers meet near the snack bar around 8:45 pm, and usually start to bowl around 9:00 pm, which is when the league bowlers are finished. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no competition, so you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

## DRAG SHOW AT MCCLV

MCCLV's Fellowship Ministry is hosting a Drag Show on Saturday, June 21, 7 PM. For info email the Fellowship Ministry Leader Joleane Ferris at fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org

## PRIDE BOARD MEETING

The next Greater Lehigh Valley Pride Board meeting will be on June 26th at 7pm in the Pride Office at 1101 W. Hamiltion Street, Allentown.

## GLOSS CAMPING

GLOSS is planning two camping trips to The Woods Campground this summer. The 1st runs from June 27 through July 6 including Hawaiian theme weekend, with a whitewater rafting trip on Sunday, Vacation Week, with a field trip to Camel Beach and 4th of July weekend, with lots of activities. The second trip runs August 1-3. The theme is Summer Gaymes, which includes the Wacky Olympics, homemade raft race, and a toga party. To reserve a spot, and/or to be part of the GLOSS team for the wacky olympics email fabio@early.com. Read more about The Woods at www.thewoods campground.com

## 100 ATTEND HAVEN PROM IN MAY

Approximately 100 youth attended HAVEN's fourth annual Prizm Prom. This number included 24 from Reading's Spectrum group and 8 from the Jenkintown High School GSA. After the prom, 10 youth stayed for a sleepover supervised by HAVEN facilitators Rachel Thompson and Allyson Diane Hamm. Twisted Tulip of Bethlehem donated flowers and members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley donated food. Music and MC were by Digital Sound Makers of Allentown. Kudos go out to the many HAVEN facilitators and community members who worked to make the Prom a success and to the HAVEN youth for their help in decorating and clean-up.

## LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears meet at the Mooselounge upstairs at the Stonewall 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at around 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moose head. This is a social group. Bears and bear admirers, are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: iramfine@aol.com or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears have a yahoo group :http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears See a definition of BEARS at the PA Diversity Network web site.

## READING PRIDE JULY 20

2nd Annual Reading Pride Celebration! Centre Park, Sunday, July 20, 12 noon - 6:00pm. Promises to be bigger and better than last year's, which attracted close to 1800 people. More vendors & 2 entertainment venues. Reading Pride will also feature a series of community pre-festival events and a post-pride party following the celebration. For information please visit www. readingpride celebration.com,or www.myspace.com /readingpridecelebration.

## GRANT FOR RAINBOW FLAGS

Community Activist Charles Versaggi has provided a small grant to PA Diversity Network to finance the distribution of rainbow flags to fly in front of homes in the Center City area of Allentown. If you live in this area and would like to fly the rainbow colors in front of your home, contact PA Diversity Network at 610-432-5449 or info@padiversity.org for more information.

## THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE IN THE PARK FESTIVAL WILL BE SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 FROM 12-6PM AT CEDAR BEACH PARK.

in Allentown, PA. Admission is $2.00 per person. The simple message—Live. Love. Be.—inspires the GLBTI community to continue seeking acceptance and equality. Live Proudly. Love Often. Be Yourself. The event will include over 75 merchants, artisans, business services, community groups, as well as games and live entertainment. Join over 5,000 attendees to acknowledge the achievements and progress made in and by the local GLBTIA community at this event. Festival highlights include: Art Gallery & Raffle, Doggie Drag Show, The Pride Pub, KidsSpace

Festival Entertainment to feature: Ultra Nate, trailblazing dance artist, www.ultranate.com; Nemesis Rising, LOGO's openly gay twin duo, www.nemesisrising.com; God-des and She, lesbian hip hop starts, www.god-des.com; Christine Havrilla, indie folk stars, www.christinehavrilla.com. Visit www.prideglv.org for artist bios, vendor information and complete details.

Booth applications will be mailed to all prior participants the first week of June. If you would like to be included, please email info@prideglv.org. Forms will also be available online in mid-June at www.prideglv.org

## GLORA

GLORA - The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown - is a social GLBT group. For details about events,email GLORA@dejazzd.com or write GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435. GLORA is a non-profit, social group for men and women, singles or couples. Eveyone welcome!

## LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading media center. Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum,Amber Brown at610-376-0137.

## GAY & LESBIAN EPISCOPALIANS & FRIENDS

GLEF meets regularly at Christ Episcopal Church at 435 Court Street, Reading, PA For info contact Dewayne Messenger through www.berksglef.org.

## BERKS GAY MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

The BGMG has grown so much these last few months with guys from all counties. The group is adult guys, singles and couples. It's a great way to meet others, make new friends and build a community of supportive gay men. Upcoming activities: 1st of three pool parties/cookouts on June 21. Movie & dinner nights, the HUGE Halloween Party on October 18 and the HUGE Christmas party the first Sat of December, with Gay comedian Eddie Sarfaty will raise money that night for Broadway Cares and PA Diversity Nework. This night the ladies are also welcome! To find out more about BGMSG email berksgmsg@aol.com

## READING PFLAG

Meets at 6:30pm on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. PFLAG information: call Help Line: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

## PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., New Location see web site. 570-620-1234. Pottsville-3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.
**Meeting Dates: Allentown:** Picnic-June 22, July1, Aug 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 Dec. 4 **Monroe:** June 6, Aug. 1, October 3, December 5 **Reading:** Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18

## LESBIAN OPEN HOUSE AT THE WOODS CAMPGROUND

Saturday, June 6, 6:00PM / Patio Tent . Private Party to benefit Breast Cancer Research. Enjoy wine & cheese, soft music and genuine sisterhood. This special event comes with a free night pass for all ladies (registration upon arrival is necessary). There is no limit on the number of female friends you can bring along! The pass is valid from 6PM to 2AM with full access to all our facilities. This is your chance to visit The Woods Campground to see what all the talk is about! The Lesbian Social will also feature Liz Bradbury's book reading and signing, also to benefit Breast Cancer Research as well as PDN.

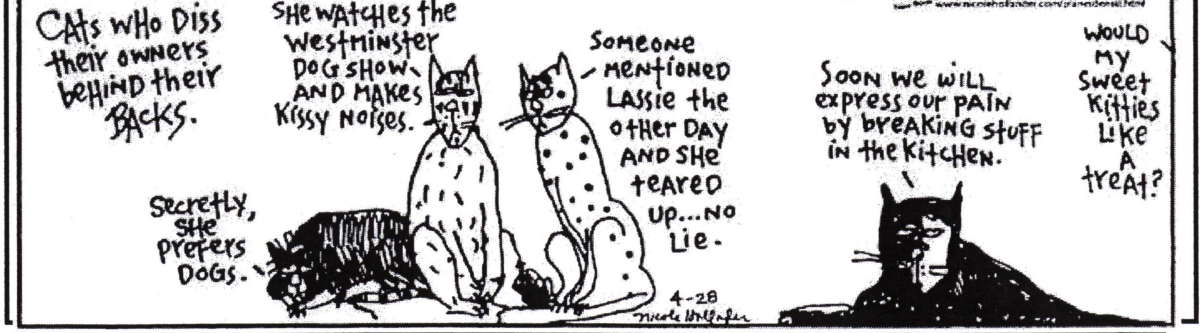
## SUPPORT GROUP - BERKS

LGBTQ Support Group at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please pre-register. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling .com VGP Drop-Off spot.

**BERKS COUNTY -COMMUNITY- DON'T MISS PDN'S GLBT COMMUNITY AWARDS CELEBRATION ON JUNE 17TH HONORING BERKS COUNTY AND LEHIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE GLBT COMMUNITY**
**SEE THE FRONT PAGE FOR INFORMATION AND WWW. PADIVERSITY.ORG FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND AWARD CATEGORIES**

## SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: www.nicole hollander.com.




CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

# SOOZ VIEWS

*By Sue Sneeringer*

## LIVE IN NEW YORK

Heading into New York City this weekend to see Tracy Letts' award-winning play, AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY for the second time. Marilyn picked up bargain tickets and we initially saw it back in February and it was, in essence, a life-altering experience (thanks, again, M!). The play has earned this year's Pulitzer, Best Play honors from the NY Drama Critics' Circle and seven Tony nominations. The production is another big, messy theatre experience brought to us by Steppenwolf Theatre, out of Chicago. Anna D. Shapiro's direction is amazing, the set and lights incredible and the ensemble cast one of the best I've ever seen. Probably since the last time I saw a Steppenwolf production down in the Village in '82 when they revived Lanford Wilson's BALM IN GILEAD. John Malkovich, a founding member of Steppenwolf, directed BALM and among the amazing cast then was Glenne Headly, Gary Sinese, Lynne Thigpen, Terry McKinney, Jeff Perry and a mesmerizing Laurie Metcalf, PRE-Roseanne. In fact, pre-stardom for all these talented folks. Wilson's play about a band of losers gathered at a seedy upper Broadway diner was big and loud and funny and tragic. To use some old slang, it was "a happening." I saw it three times, included the closing performance, and would have happily gone a dozen more.

I write what is generally considered in the trade to be the "kitchen sink" drama. Code for MELOdrama. Family relationships, usually, with an issue of the day (or two…) thrown in on the side. They are not only generally rejected (quality of the work aside and there are certainly issues there, too, to be sure!) but I am usually discouraged from even sending them many places. "No kitchen sink dramas, please!" It's a constant refrain uttered by many theatres regarding submissions.

Letts' play might change that. Because AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY has the kitchen sink, garbage disposal, refrigerator and trash compactor all in there, with a countertop thrown in on the side! It is, in short, the epic (literally AND figuratively) tale of the Weston family, patriarch Beverly, wife Violet and their three daughters and extended family members. In fact, one of the many wonders of this B'way hit is its cast of thirteen, count 'em, THIRTEEN! We are usually encouraged to keep it below six. The prohibitive nature of meeting a payroll any larger and all that. The play is also performed in THREE acts and runs three and a half hours. Another way AUGUST; OSAGE COUNTY tosses "the rules" out the window! I wept at the end of the play in February. At what was happening to the Westons and at the door I saw opening for all us kitchen sink writers. At those of us who want the theatre to be a place where it's okay to FEEL again and not simply intellectualize away the complicated nature of our existence. Kudos AND sincere thanks to Mr. Letts and Steppenwolf for this wonderful play and amazing production. Hope you win the Tony!

My alma mater, the American Film Institute gets it right with its Lifetime Achievement Award this year. It honors Warren Beatty on June 12. Check your local listings for the broadcast.

# MCCLV FREE MARKET

During the four Sundays of September, plans are underway for MCCLV to offer a "Free Market." Following the morning worship service, tables will be set up and free produce offered to all in need (both in the congregation and in the neighborhood). Gardeners with excess harvest are asked to donate their extra produce to the church so it can be given away. Non-gardeners may participate by giving away produce from sales at the grocery store or from "sell-off" at the Farmer's Market on Saturdays.

If you would like to participate in the "Free Market" contact MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy at 610-709-8800 or rev.goudy@mcclv.org.

# MUHLENBERG THEATRE

MUHLENBERG SUMMER MUSIC THEATRE - tickets to Cole Porter's Kiss Me Kate (June 11-29), The Who's Tommy (July 9 - 27), and A Year with Frog and Toad for Young Audiences (June 25 - July 26) are now available online at www.summerbroadway.org or at the box office at 484.664.3333. This summer, share the music, the spectacle and the joy of the Braodway musical with your family and friends without an expensive trip to New York City!

**Opportunities for youth:**

Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre sponsors two professionally staffed summer arts programs for youth on the Muhlenberg College campus: Camp Imagine!, a performing arts enrichment program for middle school students, and The Performing Arts Workshop, an intensive in voice, acting and movement for high school students. Both run July 7 through August 1, Monday through Friday, on the Muhlenberg College campus in Allentown. Call 484.664.3333 for brochure or visit the website at www.summerbroadway.org/camps.html

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT UPDATE FROM EQUALITY ADVOCATES

On May 6, Pennsylvania Senate voted to "Table" the proposed constitutional amendment that would have banned marriages for same-sex couples, civil unions and possibly more for all unmarried couples.

SB 1250 is now off the voting calendar and can not be considered unless there is another vote to move it back on the calendar.

The prime sponsor of the legislation, Sen. Michael Brubaker (R-Lancaster), stated that he was proposing the legislation be tabled because the Speaker of the House, Dennis O'Brien (R-Philadelphia), was going to assign the legislation to the House State Government Committee if it passed the Senate. The House State Government Committee is chaired by Rep. Babette Josephs (D-Philadelphia), a strong supporter of the LGBT community, who is opposed to the legislation. Rep. Josephs has stated that she would not move the legislation out of committee.

It is important for everyone to understand that the bill is STALLED, not DEAD. Sen. Brubaker said that if the House indicates that the bill will go to another committee or that it is interested in voting on the bill, the Senate will bring it to the floor for a vote. So continue to call or email your state Representative now and tell them to oppose SB1250. Your calls and emails also had an impact. Many Senators were losing their enthusiasm for the legislation due to strong constituent opposition. We need to deliver the same message to the House.

# DIGNITY CHAPTER FORMS IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY FOR GLBT CATHOLICS

Dignity of the Lehigh Valley gathers for worship and fellowship at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown, PA, the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 6:00 PM. GLBT Catholics as well as friends and straight allies are welcome. All those who express a desire to share in Eucharist are welcome to receive the Sacraments of the Church. Please contact dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com or visit the blog at: www.DignityLHV.blogspot.com.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

# CALENDAR

**Am Haskalah**, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa,610-435-3775
**ACCO**-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
**AIDS Outreach**-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
**AIDSWALK**-see **FACT**
**ASC**-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
**BGMSG -** Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com
**BMA**- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
**CIVIC and 19th St**. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>
**CUUPS** -- Covenenat of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV. uuclv_cuups@yahoogroups.com.
**Enigma** Players -- qacres@prolog.net
**equal@agere** - email: equal@agere.com
**FACT**- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
**GaydarMagazine** -- www.gaydarmagazine.com
**GLEE** at Air Products
**GLEF -** Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians in Berks County .Christ Episcopal Church, in Reading, 610-374-8269, email info@berksglef.org,.
**GLISN**- at Dun & Bradstreet,
**GLORA**- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com
**GLOSS** - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org
**GLOW**- at PPL
**HAVEN** GLBT Youth Group of the UUC LV - call:610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com
**HMFF**-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716
**Integrity**- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"
**Infoline** - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org
**INTERWEAVE** -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo groups..com. www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652.
**LVGMC** -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:info@lvmgc.org,<www.lvgmc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals:Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem
**Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition**- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com
**MCC** - Metropolitian Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehigh valley@yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800
**Muhlenberg GSA** Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
**NCC**- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 610-767-0296
**19th St & Civic Theatre** - 610.432.8943
**Out There**- Students at Cedar Crest College
**PA-Diversity Network**- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
**PA-GALA** - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

# JUNE 2008

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 UUCLV GLOSS WDIY HMFF **MCC** | 2 RAA **SC** | 3 **LV PFLAG** LVGMC **Yappy Hour** | 4 **HAVEN SPECTRUM TEJAS** | 5 **Skyy Lounge Games Night** | 6 Interweave Dance **Touchstone** | 7 BEARS GLOSS **LVGMC Concert** LES GROSS Woods Lesbian Socxial & Book Release |
| 8 GLOSS UUCLV **LVGMC Concert** | 9 RAA | 10 LVGMC **Yappy Hour** **MCC** | 11 **HAVEN SPECTRUM TEJAS** **Muhlenberg Theatre** | 12 GLOSS RAA **Book Release** **Skyy Lounge t** | 13 **Eunuchos** GLOSS Bowling **Touchstone** | 14 **DIG REN** GLOSS |
| 15 UUCLV GLOSS **MCC** Interweave **Brew Works** | 16 RAA **SC** | 17 LVGMC **PDN AWARDS** **Yappy Hour** | 18 **SPECTRUM TEJAS HAVEN** | 19 RAA GLOSS **Skyy Lounge Games Night** | 20 | 21 **BGMSG** **MCC** GLOSS **Drag** |
| 22 **MCC** GLOSS **LANCASTER PRIDE PFLAG PICNIC** UUCLV | 23 RAA | 24 LVGMC **Yappy Hour** **ESTATE PLANNING** | 25 **M PFLAG HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM** | 26 GLOSS RAA **P PFLAG** **Skyy Lounge Games Night** **Pride Board** **Muhlenberg Theatre** | 27 **Brew Works** Pride Page 8 **MCC** **Movie** **Eunuchos** | 28 GLOSS WDIY GLOSS CAMPING |
| 29 GLOSS **MCC** UUCLV WDIY | 30 RAA | | | | | |

# JULY 2008

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 **LV PFLAG** LVGMC | 2 **TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM** | 3 RAA GLOSS **Skyy Lounge Games Night** | 4 GLOSS CAMPING **KUTZTOWN** | 5 GLOSS WDIY **BEARS** **Book Release & Woods** GLOSS **REN DIG** |
| 6 **MCC** **TOUCHSTONE** | 7 RAA **Muhlenberg Theatre** **SC** | 8 LVGMC | 9 **SPECTRUM TEJAS** **Muhlenberg Theatre** **HAVEN** | 10 RAA **Skyy Lounge Games Night** GLOSS | 11 GLOSS Bowling **Eunuchos** | 12 WDIY GLOSS |
| 13 GLOSS HMFF **MCC** UUCLV WDIY | 14 RAA | 15 **R PFLAG** LVGMC | 16 **TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM** **Muhlenberg Theatre** **Skyy Lounge Games Night** | 17 GLOSS RAA **P PFLAG** | 18 | 19 WDIY GLOSS **MCC Drag** |
| 20 **READING PRIDE CELEBRATION** | 21 RAA **SC** | 22 LVGMC | 23 **TEJAS HAVEN** Skyy **SPECTRUM** Eunuchos **TOUCHSTONE** | 24 RAA GLOSS **Lounge Games Night** **Muhlenberg Theatre** | 25 **MCC** **Movie** **Eunuchos** | 26 **DIG** WDIY **MCC Picnic** GLOSS |
| 27 WDIY UUCLV HMFF GLOSS **MCC** | 28 RAA | 29 LVGMC | 30 **TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM** | | | |

# AUGUST 2008

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 GLOSS CAMPING | 2 WDIY GLOSS |
| 3 GLOSS UUCLV HMFF | 4 RAA **SC** | 5 LVGMC **LV PFLAG** | 6 **HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM** | 7 RAA **Skyy Lounge Games Night** GLOSS | 8 **Eunuchos** GLOSS Bowling | 9 **DIG** GLOSS WDIY **REN** UUCLV Plant |
| 10 WDIY GLOSS MCC HMFF UUCLV | 11 RAA | 12 LVGMC **R PFLAG** | 13 **HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM** | 14 GLOSS RAA **Skyy Lounge Games Night** | 15 | 16 GLOSS WDIY |
| 17 **LV PRIDE in the PARK** | 18 RAA **SC** | 19 LVGMC | 20 **HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM** | 21 RAA GLOSS **P PFLAG** **Skyy Lounge Games Night** | 22 **Eunuchos** | 23 **DIG** WDIY GLOSS |
| 24 GLOSS UUCLV HMFF MCC | 25 | 26 LVGMC | 27 **HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM** | 28 RAA GLOSS **Skyy Lounge Games Night** | 29 **MCC** **Movie** | 30 WDIY GLOSS |
| 31 | RAA | | | | | |

**PFLAG - LV** Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org
**Pride** - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.pridelv.org>
**Progressive Students Alliance** - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatpsa.htm
**Quakers**-LV Friends Meeting-Rt 512 N of Rte 22 Bethlehem, Worship 9:30am. 610-691-3411.
**RAA**- Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.
**Rainbow Families** -donniearlucas@msn.com
**Ren**- Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org
**Reading P-FLAG**- 610-967-5219
**Reading Pride** - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebration. org
**SC Sanctuary Counseling** G:BT Support Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com
**Safe Space**- At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
**Spectrum** -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137
**UUCLV** - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
**VGP** - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org
**Wachovia-GALEA**- Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

## SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
SANCTUARY COUNSELING- 1ST & 3RD MONDAY
GLOSS GAME NITE - 4TH MON
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUES
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAY
ALLENTOWN PFLAG - 1ST TUES
MCCLV TEJAS WOMANS GRP - WEDS
LV HAVEN - WEDS
READING SPECTRUM - WEDS
MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS
JAN,MAR,JUN,SEPT,DEC ONLY
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -THURS
GAME NITE -SKYY LOUNGE -THURS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS
GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT
GLOSS BOWLING -2ND FRI
MCCLV MOVIES- LAST FRI
MCCLV POTLUCK- LAST SUN
MCCLV WEIGHT LOSS- SUNS
LV BEARS - 1ST SAT
GLOSS PINOCHLE - 2ND SAT
RENAISSANCE -2ND SAT
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNS
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAY
DIGNITY - 2ND • 4TH SUN
DOGGIE HAPPY HOURS - JUNE TUESDAYS

JUN 1 -- RAINBOW FAMILIES PICNIC
JUN 6 - WOODS LESBIAN WKND
JUN 6 - INTERWEAVE DANCE & BOOK SIGNIN
JUN 7 - LES GROSS CONCERT
JUN 7 - BOOK RELEASE @ THE WOODS
JUN 7 - LVGMC CONCERT
JUN 8 - LVGMC CONCERT
JUN 10 - MCC BASEBALL
JUN 11 - 29 MUHLENBERG THEATRE
JUN 12 - BOOK RELEASE @ SKYY
JUN 15 - TEA DANCE
JUN 17 - PDN AWARDS CELEBRATION
JUN 21 - BGMSG
JUN 21 - MCCLV DRAG SHOW
JUN 22 - PFLAG PICNIC
UN 22 - LANCASTER PRIDE
JUN 24 -ESTATE PLANNING
JUN 26 - PRIDE BD MTG
JUN 25 - JUL 26 MUHLENBERG THEATRE
JUN 26 - MARTINI CLUB
JUN 27-JUL 6 -GLOSS CAMPING
JUN 27 - QUEEN OF PRIDE
JUL 7-AUG 1 - MUHLENBERG THEATRE CAMP
JUL 9 - 27 MUHLENBERG THEATRE
JUL 20 -READING PRIDE FESTIVAL
JUL 26 - MCCLV PICNIC
AUG 1-3 - GLOSS CAMPING
AUG 17 - GLV PRIDE FESTIVAL

# PDN LIST OF 2008

## EVENTS:

**June 1 –** Rainbow Family Picnic
**June 4** -- PDN Speaks in Monroe County
**June 6 –** Book Signing at the Pre-Pride Interweave Dance
**June 7** -- Book Release event at the Woods Campground
**June 10** -- PDN Speaks at Wachovia in Philly
**June 17**-- PA Diversity Network Community Awards Celebration
**June 22** -- PDN will participate in the PFLAG Picnic.
**June 24** -- Amy Smart Estate Planning seminar
**July 20** -- PDN will participate in Reading Pride's Reading Pride Celebration 2008
**August 17** -- PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Festival
**October 16** -- PDN Executive Director Liz Bradbury will do a presentation on Gay History at the Pottsville PFLAG meeting.
**October, 2008**-- 5K Breast Cancer Classic, PDN will have a team with a great breakfast at the PDN headquarters.
**November, 2008** -- PDN Bingo
**November 15** -- 4th Annual PDN Holiday Art Show
**December 2008** -- Rainbow Families Christmas Party with MCCLV
**December 2008** -- Berks Gay Men's Social Group Party and Comedy Night - benefits Broadway Cares and PDN

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE LV



**Last Sunday of the Month Potluck @ MCCLV** follows the 10:30 AM morning worship service, all are welcome! Bring a dish to share. For more information, contact Fellowship Ministry Leader Joleane Ferris at fellowship.ministry@mcclvorg
**MCCLV Weight Loss Support Group**- meets on Sundays following the 10:30 AM morning worship. Information: Stephanie Heller: wishiwasatadeadshow@yahoo.com
**MCCLV and Vision of Hope MCC** - joint event bringing together MCCLV and Vision of Hope MCC (Lancaster, PA) meet on June 10 in Reading for a Reading Phillies baseball game. Tickets under $10 info@mcclv.org
**Annual Picnic 2008** - July 26 @ 12pm Saturday Emmaus Community Park Women's Pavilion (by Pool)
**MCCLV Sunday Morning Bible Study** - every Sunday at 8:30 AM. Information, christian.education@mcclv.org.
**Annual Banquet 2008** Oct. 4th @ 6pm Saturday, Lee Gribbens on Main, Emmaus.
**Pastor Appreciation Surprise** - Host: MCCLV Congregant Oct. 5 @ 11am Sunday
**All U Can Eat Brunch Fundraiser** November 8 @ 10am (setup) 11am (meal time)

## GAME NIGHTS - EVERY THURSDAY, 6PM
## THE SKYY LOUNGE - 1500 WASHINGTON ST. (AT 15TH) IN WILSON, PA *** 1/2 THE $5 COVER BENEFITS PDN

# RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

## SUMMER RANTS AND RAVES

By now you may have heard that the current issue of Gaydar Magazine is the last. There are a few reasons for this but the main one is that it is a full time job to put Gaydar together and I already have a full time job. Which leaves me precious little time to spend doing things with my bf Gary. A heartfelt thank you to all those who have supported Gaydar by advertising, subscribing, contributing or offering constructive criticism and attended our many fundraisers for the non-profits of the LV. One of my favorite things was when advertisers said they loved Gaydar because they felt they could be more adventurous with our readers than other publications. The new issue features interviews with Janet Jackson, Leona Lewis, Liz Bradbury, Tom Bianchi, Phil Healing, a profile of the Queen City, gay adoption, a resource guide for the LV and of course some smoking hot models as well as lists of classic gay music, films, books, divas etc.

Now that all that is said and done let's move onto my real purpose here; to direct you to some great entertainment for the summer. **Concerts:** Of course MusikFest and the Allentown Fair will have dozens of musical performers including lesbian fav Avril Lavigne, Boston, Poison, Earth, Wind & Fire, the odd pairing of Brooks & Dunn with ZZTop, boy toys (and jail bait-trust me, I learned the hard way) the Jonas Bros, redneck (I say that with love) Toby Keith, and hot, (hot! hot!) Daughtry. **Movies:** I can already recommend Iron Man. If superhero films are your taste, this may be the very best of the genre. Looking forward to Indy 4, Sex and the City, The Dark Knight, The Love Guru. Curious about Get Smart, The Step Brothers, The Happening, Hancock, and Pineapple Express. Future 99 cent bin **DVDs:** Wall.e, Speed Racer, The Incredible Hulk, and You Don't Mess with the Zohan. **Music:** Expect the hits to keep coming from the Madonna and Mimi cds. If you can't wait for Amy Winehouse to clean up her act and record a new disc pick up Duffy's Rockferry. The new Coldplay and the soundtrack to SATC look promising. My favorite single right now is Mother Mary by Foxboro Hot Tubs. No, I didn't make that up. And, you can never go wrong with a classic disco beat blasting from a convertible. **As for TV:** Use it only on rainy days to catch up with the latest seasons on DVD of Ugly Betty, Desperate Housewives and The Office before they start anew in the fall.

**Meet you here next month.**

donniearlucas@msn.com

by Earl and Donnie Snyder

## THE FOOD THING

This food thing is becoming really frustrating. Most parents of toddlers and young kids know what is meant by the " food thing." For those that do not, it is the daily battle to get your kid to eat something healthy, something different or just something at all. Or just something other than chicken nuggets, mac & cheese, or spaghetti. The daily battles are just part of a full-blown war being waged between parent and child. It's a war based on principles, the principles of nutrition.

This war has lasted not days, not weeks, not even months, but years. It actually started when Lucas was one-year-old. As soon as we took him off of baby food and began introducing him to regular human food, the problems began. We were caught off guard having been totally confident that our son would eat anything we put in front of him.

After all, he ate every combination of meats and vegetables that Gerber could puree and package. Ham and pineapples with yams, turkey and sweet potatoes with corn, chicken with rice and peas, creamed corn, spinach and squash. No matter what the combination of ingredients, it looked basically the same, like what you find on the floor the morning after you hear the cat yacking something up in the middle of the night. But he ate it and enjoyed it. We were so lucky we thought we were blessed. Until we placed a plate with regular food in front of him.

That first regular dinner was nothing spectacular, just simple and tasty. Marinated chicken breast cut into bite-sized pieces, mashed potatoes, and carrots. It went uneaten, but not totally unused. Some ended up on the table, some on the floor, and a lot on his face and hands. It was fun to play with.

We learned we had to join in on the fun but comparisons of his food to an airplane coming in for a landing, magic kernels of corn and candy green beans had limited success. What would Mommy Dearest do? She would serve the uneaten dinner for breakfast and then for lunch until it was finally consumed. We were desperate. Unfortunately Lucas must have been watching the movie with us, having taken tips from that little brat Christina, he remained adamant, and the food went to the dog. We surrendered. Kraft Cheese and Macaroni, SpagettiOs, and Chicken nuggets became the alternate menu choices at every meal. Twenty-cent packs of Ramen Noodles were put aside for special occasions.

Oh the agony of defeat! Granted, its only food and its only been four years and counting, but we are Gay men. We have a penchant for drama. Besides, that is the stuff single straight men live on. Oh the horror!

## ALLENTOWN BREW WORKS

The Brew Works in Allentown has graciously committed to sponsering part of PDN Award Celebration on June 17.

**Every Tuesday in June** - Doggie "Yappy" Hour Man's (and Woman's) Best Friend – Your dog or your beer? The Allentown Brew Works says – "why choose?"! From 5-8 pm on the patio and bring your dog to the Brew Works Doggie "Yappy" Hour, featuring "Muttinis" for humans and a special doggie menu from Noah's Biscuit Barn & Bakery for your best friend. A portion of every Muttini purchased will go to Peacable Kingdom, a no kill animal shelter.

**June 15th** - Summer Sunday Tea Dances - A different theme every month! 1PM-7PM, Mimosa & Bloody Mary Specials

**June 26th** - Martini Club Gathering Night -- The Martini Club is Now Hotter than Ever! Specials and discounts offered 7 days a week! This events benefits in part - GLV Pride and FACT

## Ask a "Family" Lawyer
### By Attorney Kate Lynn

**The California Supreme Court on May 15, 2008 seems to have paved the way for same sex marriage (again!) in that state. What impact will our planned marriage in California have on us in Pennsylvania? When can we get hitched?**

**SOON TO BE CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' OF MARRIAGE**

Dear Dreamin',

The May 15, 2008 California Supreme Court opinion in In Re Marriage Cases decided the question as to whether it is unconstitutional discrimination for the state legislature to classify the legal status of opposite-sex couples as "marriage," while classifying the legal status of same-sex couples as "domestic partnership." Because of historic discrimination faced by Gay couples, the court found that this difference in classifications was unconstitutional as violating the California constitution's equal protection clause.

This lengthy opinion noted that the Court had previously ruled that marriage was a fundamental right in California such that the test of "strict scrutiny" was required when analyzing whether or not a law is constitutional. For that test, the state of California was required to prove a compelling interest to classify couples as noted above. This is a very high burden of proof for the state to meet.

What does all this mean? The Court essentially found that if the state of California recognizes marriage, it must recognize it for both opposite-sex and same-sex couples; the state could not reserve the term "marriage" only for opposite-sex couples and call same-sex couples "domestic partners." Further, same-sex couples had none of the benefits of a legal marriage.

The website of the Office of the County Clerk in San Francisco (http://www.sfgov.org/site/countyclerk_index.asp?id=80897) explains that it will likely take at least a month before county clerks may issue marriage licenses to same sex couples. Note that the effect of the California Supreme Court's opinion in In re Marriage Cases (six consolidated appeals) means that a marriage license may be obtained from any county clerk's office in California, not just the handful of cities that permitted licenses in 2004.

Unlike Massachusetts, California has no residency requirement for obtaining a marriage license, meaning Gays nationwide may choose to travel to California for their marriage. Be mindful, however; if you choose to divorce, Massachusetts has a one year residency requirement. For a marriage in California, one of the parties to the marriage must have been a resident of that state for six months and of the county in which the proceeding is filed for three months preceding the filing of the divorce petition. One of these states is a community property state, and one is a common law/equitable division state. These laws have ramifications for the division of property in a divorce. As always, consult a lawyer if you have any questions.

**Kate Lynn is a solo practitioner whose primary office is located in Allentown. She and Lori were married in San Francisco in March 2004. Kate can be reached at (610) 435-7770 or on her website at www.katelynnlaw.com. The law firm includes Kate's partner Lori and two unpaid but hard working office dogs, Crockett and Diego.**

**Disclaimer: The information presented herein is for information only, and should not be construed to be formal legal advice nor the formation of an attorney - client relationship. A qualified legal professional must possess full knowledge of a client's particular facts and circumstances in order to render a valid legal opinion.**

**READ MORE IN THE RAINBOW FAMILIES SECTION OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.**

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

# FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

## MCCLV REV. BETH GOUDY INTERVIEW

For LGBT Christians, there is one church dedicated just to them. Rev. Beth Goudy took a few minutes to speak with the VGP about the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley:

**Beth, Tell us a little bit about the origins of the MCC church**

***The MCC denomination was founded in 1968 by a former Pentecostal pastor, Rev. Troy Perry who had been kicked out of his church and wanted to establish a faith community that recognized the gifts of LGBT people. For Perry, LGBT people were not just to be "tolerated" but were to be celebrated. The MCC in the Lehigh Valley was founded in 1984.

**What differentiates MCC from other LGBT-affirming faith organizations**

***MCC is a minority community church. There are many strong minority churches in the United States: Black and Latino churches - minority community churches have been a source of fellowship and community in the face of exclusion by the majority population. In MCC, LGBT people are the majority. I think the main differentiation between MCC and LGBT-affirming faith organizations is that in an "affirming" faith community, LGBT people may be a small part or a large part of the organization. This is not good or bad, better or worse, MCC is simply different than a place that is "affirming" of the LGBT community. I think MCC is too often dismissed by the LGBT community as "not worthy" and I think it comes from internalized homophobia. I'll be happy for the day when the LGBT community recognizes MCC as absolutely equal to any other church.

**Can anybody join MCCLV?**

***All are welcome to worship at MCCLV or attend events. Membership at MCC is a higher level of commitment and entails a profession of Christian faith. Members are required to be baptized Christians and go through a four-week process in which they affirm their discipleship journey. Yes, MCCLV has straight members, in addition to straight people attending worship and events and serving in leadership.

**In today's time, when various "mainstream" denominations are becoming more affirming of LGBT people, is there still a need for an "LGBT church"?**

***That's a good question and one I ask myself frequently. If I changed my clergy credentials to a denomination that ordained openly gay people, like the United Church of Christ or Episcopal, then I would have a MUCH better pension and benefits. However, it's not about money and my heart is in and with MCC. Sadly, I would not be able to seek ordination in most "mainstream" churches unless I was closeted. The VAST majority of Christian churches currently do not ordain openly LGBT non-celibate people, nor do they perform same-sex marriages. So, there is certainly still a need for a minority community church serving the LGBT community! MCCLV's Vision states that we are a community where gender and sexual identities are affirmed as spiritual gifts.

**MCCLV recently moved into a new location, tell us about your space**

***It is ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS!!! MCCLV has acquired GREAT space at 930 North 4th Street in Allentown. It is a former textile mill with a nice, wide-open feeling. After five years with no windows, MCCLV now has 68 windows!

**How can someone get in touch with you for more information?**

***All are welcome at MCCLV for worship - Sundays at 10:30 AM or 6 PM. The MCCLV is also on the web at www.mcclv.org or via phone at 610-709-8800.

**THE RAINBOW FAMILIES GLBT PARENT GROUP HAD A PICNIC ON SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST AT 1 PM AT EMMAUS PARK. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RAINBOW FAMILIES CONTACT EARL SNYDER AT EDDIE3333@MSN.COM.**


# VALLEY GAY PRESS

**web site: www.padiversity.org**

**Publisher, Managing Editor** -- Liz Bradbury
**Publisher, Editor** -- Patricia Sullivan
**Columnists:** Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Kate Lynn, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Adrian Shanker and others

**Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)** operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network.**

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**Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:**
**Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley** 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
**PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville** -- see meeting schedule
**Pride House** at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
**19th Street Theater** -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
**Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (UUCLV)** -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem
**Haven** GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV
**10 Libraries in Berks County**
**Planned Parenthood** NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading
**Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County), Reading Community Theatre -** 11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading
**Allen HS GSA , Reading HS GSA, Gov Miflin HS GSA Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center Reading Area Community College GSA 48 S. 4th St., Reading**

**Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:**
**Diamonz Nightclub** -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
**Stonewall Bar** -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown
**Candida's** -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown
**Hava Java Coffee Shop** -- N. 19th St. Allentown
**Dreamscape Comics** -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
**The Woods Campground**
**Red Star Saloon** -- 11 S. 10th St, Reading
**Sanctuary Counseling** --515 Old Swede Road, Douglasville

**Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly,** excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month. PDN's membership cycle begins in January. Circulation: 1000-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500, monthly, 35k readers a year.

**To Contact Valley Gay Press:**
Mail to:PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org
To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

PDN
PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name/s_____
Address_____
City_____State____zip_____
Phone_____ E-mail_____

- ☐ Senior dues (over 65) $5
- ☐ Individual dues $15
- ☐ Family dues $20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Additonal contribution
Make checks payable to **PDN.** $50 $100 other

**LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:**

**PDN**
**PO BOX 22902**
**LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

**BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:**

**PDN**
**PO BOX 242**
**MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

## BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS

### PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY PAYING YOUR DUES NOW**

Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just $15 for an individual membership and $20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 200 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2008 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

### PAY YOUR PDN DUES ON LINE!

**JUST GO TO "MEMBERSHIP" AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.**

### CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

### RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm, 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator-1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline:610-882-0558.

### SUPPORT PDN BY SEARCHING THE NET

You can support PA Diversity Network with every computer search **at no cost to you.** Instead of Google searches, start using Goodsearch.com as your search engine (powered by Yahoo) and choose the charity "Pennsylvania Diversity Network." Every search will give PA Diversity Network and all its programs including the Valley Gay Press, one penny. If 100 people search 2 times a day -- that is $730 per year!

PA Diversity provides the community with a great amount of support and resources and this is an easy way to support PDN. Make Goodsearch your home page!!!

**CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**

# LIZ OUT LOUD © 11

*By Liz Bradbury* **CALIFORNIA & ELLEN**

How about Ellen announcing on her show that she will get married now that the California Supreme Court has ruled same-sex marriage legal? I said to Trish, "Well, we may not see equal marriage rights in our lifetime in Pennsylvania, but we've actually seen a daytime talk show host announce she will marry her lesbian partner and we've heard her audience cheer their support.

Not only that, we've seen Ellen face off with Republican Presidential candidate John McCain and make him look like an idiot, when she started off saying: "Women just got the right to vote in 1920. Blacks didn't have the right to vote till 1870. It just feels like there's this old way of thinking (that) we are not all the same. We are all the same people. All of us."

McCain came back with: "People should be able to enter into legal agreements, and I think that is something we should encourage, particularly in the case of insurance and other areas." What a guy, he'll let Ellen get insurance and sign contracts...hey wait, she could already do that.

Ellen's response: "When someone says, 'You can have a contract, and you'll still have insurance and you'll get all that, it sounds to me like saying, 'Well you can sit there; you can't sit there."

McCain said, more than once, that this was something on which they "respectfully disagree."

I personally want to state in this column that, while I am willing to be courteous to anyone, I don't think any of us have to be respectful of someone's opinion that denies us or anyone else basic legal rights because of minority status. I don't respect racism or religious bias either.

***Three things about the California Supreme Court ruling.

1. Anti-equal rights groups insist, as they have in PA, that there needs to be a Constitutional Amendment in California to ban same-sex marriage because this decision was made by just four "activists judges." In reality, the California Legislature - the elected representatives of the people - had already voted twice in favor of equal marriage rights, but were vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) who insisted that this decision should be made by the Courts.

2. If someone tries to argue that a Constitutional Amendment to prohibit marriage equality is valid because it would be a majority decision, please point out that in America we are supposed to guarantee equal rights for all people, not just the majority. Everybody is in the minority in some way, at some time; religious denomination, age, ancestry, marital status... How would anyone feel if their rights were to be determined, perhaps forever, based on a vote of a group of people to which they do not belong. Constitutions are supposed to protect against that.

3. Arguments that suggest that opposite sex marriage is harmed by same-sex marriage are not only just kind of whacky, but they are also disproved by the US State of Massachusetts, where stats indicate that opposite sex marriage is stronger there than in any other state, even though same-sex marriage has been legal there for three years.

**Read more about the California Decision in Kate Lynn's" As A Family Lawyer" Column.**

# BOOK RELEASE EVENT SCHEDULE

Liz Bradbury will be reading excerpts and signing her novel at several upcoming release events including. The Interweave Dance (signing only) on June 6 benefits Interweave and PDN, The Woods campground at a special Lesbian Open House (free admission to the Woods) and Social event on Saturday June 7, benefits PDN and Breast Cancer Research. Skyy Lounge on Thursday at 6pm in Wilson (Northampton County) at 1500 Washington St. at 15th Street, benefits PDN. Contact Liz Bradbury or call Boudica Publishing Inc or email boudicapublish@aol.com if you would like to have Liz do a book signing event to benefit your not-for-profit organization.

# TRISH'S COLUMN©

*By Patricia Sullivan*

## HOSPITAL SURVEY

When we need health services, we want and deserve to be treated in a manner consistent with our heterosexual counterparts. Yet, from the moment we enter a hospital or doctor's office we are treated differently.

Have you ever completed an admission or treatment form that included adequate choices for gender or partnership status? Many GLBT people do not seek routine medical care because of fear of discrimination. Unfortunately, when we do seek services, homophobia and transphobia can lead to inadequate screening, diagnosis or treatment of our medical conditions. The inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in hospital employment and visitation policies, equal access for same-sex partners, health proxies, or as parents for minor children, employee diversity training, and domestic partner benefits, are all necessary practices to equalize health care for GLBT people.

The Human Rights Campaign, while not fully inclusive with legislative, creates Workplace Equality Indexes that continue to be a yardstick for GLBT equality business practices. Now, HRC and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association are indexing hospitals with the best GLBT employment and service practices. This project will no doubt raise awareness among health care providers and ultimately improve services to our community. HRC polls hospitals on criteria relevant to serving the GLBT community through a web-based questionnaire that was sent to 3,000 American Hospital Association member hospitals with 300 beds or more, nationwide. 88 hospitals responded. Though they were not all 100%, these 88 are well on their way to GLBT equality. For example, 84% had sexual orientation and 58% had gender identity in their employment policies and 94% gave domestic partner health insurance. None of our Lehigh Valley or Berks County Hospitals responded to this survey. Why isn't he largest employer in the Lehigh Valley and one of the "100 Best Places to Work" represented in this report? Let's hope it's because management is reviewing their policies and practices and intend to respond to the survey this October.

The Director of HRC's Family Project, Tom Sullivan, told me that project staff welcome receiving contact information for key administrators who could facilitate a response from hospitals who have yet to respond. Invitations to participate in the next survey will be sent out in October and the responses are due in December. Let's not waste this opportunity.

If you work at LVH, St. Luke's or Reading Hospital or know an administrator, human resources officer, diversity trainer, public relations or marketing person who works there, send them a copy of the report and do your part to encourage these hospitals to participate. I can't think of any good reason for a hospital not to participate, unless of course, there is no interest on their part to move toward inclusive and progressive policies.

The 2008 report, Healthcare Equality Index: Creating a National Standard for Equal Treatment of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Patients and their Families is available on line at: www.hrc.org/hei.

# GLBT PEOPLE OVER 50...

Moravian College student Krisi Cherrier is working on a GLBT history project collecting stories of local GLBT over 50 to examine the diffusion of pride and activism from cities to the suburban regions surrounding them. If you are a GLBT person from this part of PA and would like to participate in this project. please contact PDN by emailing info@padiversity.org.

# POP QUIZ 12

1. Gay or Canadian: Perry Mason star Raymond Burr

2. A new biography by Michael Seth Starr titled ____: The Secret Life of Raymond Burr, has just been released. A. Hollywood Mystery B. Hiding in Plain Sight C. Closeted Court D. Behind the Lens

3. The Perry Mason TV show ran with new weekly episodes from 1957 to 19___. A. 62 B. 64 C. 66 D. 68

4. Burr closeted himself by making up a fictitious wife and telling the public that she had died in the same 1943 plane crash that killed Gone With The Wind star _____. A. Hattie McDaniel B. Clark Gable C. Vivian Leigh D. Leslie Howard

5. Burr also made up a fictitious ____. A. son who died of leukemia B. son who was killed in the Korean War C. daughter who lived in Singapore D. daughter who died in a car accident

6. Efforts to hide Raymond Burr's Gay identity included hints about an affair with 21 year-old starlet____.
A. Rita Moreno B. Liza Minnelli
C. Annette Funicello D. Natalie Wood

7. Like mystery character Nero Wolfe, Burr's hobby was raising _____. A. Siamese cats
B. Boston bulldogs C. orchids D. roses

8. Burr served in the ____ during WW2 and was seriously wounded at Okinawa.
A. Army B. Navy C. Marines D. Air Force

9. Burr was also a ___ in his lifetime. A. deputy sheriff B. lounge singer C. award winning vintner D. owner of a Fiji Island E. all of these.

10. Burr's life partner of 35 years, to whom he left his 31 million dollar estate, was _____.
A. Robert Benevides B. Richard Robinson
C. James Hopper D. David Street

1.both 2.B 3.C 4.D 5.A 6.D 7.C 8.B 9.E 10.A

# VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

**Running With Scissors by Augusten Burroughs 2002, Picador, $14.00**

The movie got dozens of poor reviews at Amazon, where readers of the book insisted the book was so much better. I happened to like the movie so I figured the book would be great. It was good, but I liked the movie better.

The book, an autobiographical work that describes Augusten Burroughs' bizarre adolescence, features a mother that is so dysfunctional, Joan Crawford seems like June Cleaver. Mom dumps Augusten at the home of her warped therapist whose family brings to mind a barely saner Addams family. Burroughs describes a series of incidents that colored his life, but the book also contains a definite understory of the boredom that comes from a life with no rules or obligations, including no school.

The movie has the extra intensity of an excellent cast, including Annette Benning, Alec Baldwin, Kristen Chenoweth, Jill Clayburgh, and Gwyneth Paltrow and lacks some of the grossness of the book which makes the movie easier to take. Still it's an interesting story, both funny and grim with a writing style that makes it compelling.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley & Berks County if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin,ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network
GLBT Infoline
PA-GALA
Rainbow Families
Valley Gay Press
Allentown Human Relations Commission
Safe-Space of Lehigh University
PFLAG Lehigh Valley
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
GLORA
Pride of the GLV
LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union
The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Agere
Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest
9th Street Shelter Allentown
LV Community Action Committee
GLEE at Air Products
FACT
AIDS Outreach
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV
GLOSS
LEPOCO
GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet
AIDS Services Center
Theatre Outlet
Integrity - Bethlehem
The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre
The Latin Alliance
The Enigma Players
New Covenant Family Ministries
Properties of Merit
Allentown City Democratic Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance
Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley
Muhlenberg Theater Association
Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley
Touchstone Theater
Congregation Am Haskalah
The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance
The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown
United Friends School Quakertown
LV Transsexual Coalition
Lehigh Valley Transmen
GLEF (Gay & Lesbian Episcopalians &Friends)
Old Allentown Preservation Association

## QUOTE #1

Some top Democrats in the Colorado Senate had sharp words for a Republican colleague, who, during the debate over an anti-bias measure, claimed LGBT people face no discrimination and said the state may as well ban bias against short people, too.

"It must be nice as a white male to sit back and mock the real discrimination that occurs in our society, especially on the basis of sexual orientation," -- **"out" Sen. Jennifer Veiga, D-Denver. The Denver Post (4/18)**

## QUOTE #2

"I was elected as a openly gay married man who had never run for a prior elected position. I believe that speaks volumes to the advancement of our community and to the greater acceptance by Rhode Islanders and our fight for equality." **--Openly gay Rhode Island state Rep. Frank Ferri, as quoted in EDGE Boston**

## QUOTE #3

"There are few more fundamental freedoms than the right of each citizen to choose the life partner of his/her choice and to have society treat that relationship and their children with equality. Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon will be the first couple to be married with equal rights and responsibilities pursuant to the California Supreme Court's decision. It took 56 years." -- **From a press release from Equality Forum**

## QUOTE #4

"Now another generation in our family is going to be able to get married because of the same California Supreme Court. It's like our legal history and it's like our family history are all wrapped up in this decision."**--California marriage-suit plaintiff Stuart Gaffney, whose parents were able to wed under a 1948 decision allowing interracial marriage, as quoted in the Washington Blade**

## QUOTE #5

"You sent in your "one sentence", you called your senator, you joined one of the rallies, you had your picture in the PDN Photo Project and/or you signed a red card. If you didn't, well, you know better for next time. You do have a voice!!!!!!" **-- Bolton Winpenny, COO of Panzee Press, LLC thanking those who contacted their legislators on the PA Constitutional Amendment, after it was tabled by the State Senate**

## ITEM #5

In 2007, on the 40th anniversary of Loving v. Virginia, Mildred Loving issued a statement urging that Gay men and Lesbians be allowed to marry. **-- Mildred Loving (who died in May) who was African American was arrested in the 1950s for marrying a white man. Their case was the basis of the Supreme Court decision to make interracial marriage legal in the United States.**

Distelfink © 5/08 by Ruby Zebu "Yay Ellen"

Ellen: So, does that mean you'll walk me down the aisle?

John McCain: Touche'

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